

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04245 121757Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 4245

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF
SUBJ: SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT MIDDLE EAST VISIT: UNSC
CONSIDERATION OF ME AND GULF OF SUEZ

REF STATE 48334,

1. AFTER WEEK OF UNSUCCESSFUL TRYING TO SEE FAHMY DURING
AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONF TO CONVEY THE POINTS OUTLINED REFTEL,
I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MEET WITH FAHMY FOR AN HOUR MARCH 12.
I EXPRESSED THE SECRETARY'S WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE DIS-
CUSSIONS HE HAD IN EGYPT WHICH HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL
IN INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AND ALSO VERY
IMPORTANT IN ESTABLISHING THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL
BE NECESSARY DURING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. FAHMY SAID HE HAD
GREATLY ENJOYED MEETING WITH SEC VANCE AND HE TOO FELT
THAT GOOD PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED. I GAVE
HIM TALKING POINTS PARA 2 IN WRITING AND WE DISCUSSED THEM
DURING GENERAL ME REVIEW (SEPTTEL).

2. I WENT ON TO MAKE POINTS IN PARA 3 REFTEL CONCERNING
SECURITY COUNCIL CONDIDERATION OF THE SECGEN'S REPORT.
FAHMY AGREED READILY THAT IT WAS "NOT ALL NECESSARY" TO
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INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT IT WOULD
BE ACCEPABLE TO HAVE A GENERAL CONSCNSUS ON THE REPORT.
HOWEVER, HE DID FEEL THAT A MEETING ON THE SUBJECT WAS NEC-
ESSARY TO ACHIEVE THAT END. HE ASSERTED THAT AMB YOUNG'S
REQUEST TO THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
SC FOR A LETTER OUTLINING THEIR VIEES AND AGREEING THAT NO
MEETING WAS NECESSARY WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. FAHMY

SAID HE HAD SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO AMB MEQUID NOT TO AGREE TO THIS PROCEDURE AND TO INSIST INSTEAD OF A MEETING AT WHICH A CONSENSUS WOULD DEVELOP. FAHMY AGREED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

3. I WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE SEC WOULD REGARD THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL UNSC MEETING ON SETTLEMENTS AND THE GULF OF SUEZ PROBLEMS AS BEING COUNTER TO OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE PEACE PROCESS. FAHMY REACTED STRONGLY ON THE GULF OF SUEZ DRILLING QUESTION, SAYING HE HAD PREVIOUSLY WARNED US THAT IF ISRAEL CONTINUED TO OBSTRUCT LEGITIMATE OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, EGYPT WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE TO THE SC. THE OBJECTIVE OF DOING SO WOULD BE TO FORCE THE US TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN AND US LEGAL POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTIVITIES. HE WENT ON THAT THE USG SEEMED UNABLE TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO DESIST AND EVERY TIME EGYPT TRIED TO TAKE ACTION TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS, THE US ASKED THAT IT NOT DO SO BECAUSE IT WOULD HINDER PEACE PROCESS. I POINTED OUT THAT THE INCIDENT LAST MONTH HAD NOW BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED AND THE AMOCO RIG WAS DRILLING WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE; THEREFORE THERE SEEMED TO BE NO REASON FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. FAHMY RESPONDED THAT DRILLING SHOULD ALSO BE RESUMED AT THE "OTHER SITE" (PRESUMABLY 304.1). I GAVE HIM MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS WERE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND THAT THEY HAD NO IMMEDIATE NEED TO RETURN TO 304.1. FAHMY GRUMBLED A BIT MORE BUT THEN CONVERSATION TURNED TO OTHER MATTERS.

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4. COMMENT: I THINK DESPITE WHAT FAHMY SAID HE HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO TAKE THE GULF OF SUEZ ISSUE TO THE SC UNLESS SOME FURTHER INCIDENT OCCURS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

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